In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-18 by re-writing same as indicated in the enclosed complete listing of all claims in the application commencing on a separate sheet and indicating the status of each claim as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

~~Patent Claims~~

1. (Currently Amended) Housing structure for mounting optical elements, in particular of a projection lens housing in a projection exposure system for manufacturing semiconductor elements, wherein attachment locations~~, which have~~ with connecting parts, for connection to a supporting structure being provided on structural elements, wherein the connecting parts comprise supporting elements ~~(12), which are provided~~ with mounting flanges ~~(13)~~ for connection to the supporting structure ~~(11), act on~~, and wherein the supporting elements are connected to the structural elements ~~(9, 10)~~ in such a way that supporting forces, in particular weight forces, are taken up essentially by pressure forces and shear forces.

2. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said connections between the structural elements ~~(9, 10)~~, ~~the~~said supporting elements ~~(12)~~ and ~~the~~said associated mounting flange ~~(13)~~ are effected essentially by means of adhesive surfaces ~~(17a, 17b, 17c)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said structural elements ~~(9, 10)~~ are made of materials to which the group comprising glass, ceramic and glass ceramic belongs.

4. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said supporting elements ~~(12)~~ comprise a metal supporting element ~~(12)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~,Claim 1, wherein at least three supporting elements ~~(12)~~, distributed over the periphery, act on ~~the~~said structural elements ~~(9, 10)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 5, wherein ~~the~~said supporting elements ~~(12)~~ act on an at least approximately centrally arranged structure reinforcing plate ~~(10)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 6,~~Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said supporting elements ~~(12)~~ each have at least approximately an L-shape with a mounting flange ~~(13)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, wherein ~~the~~said associated structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ lies on a horizontal leg of ~~the~~said L-shape and in that the vertical leg of the L-shape lies against the external periphery of ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~, ~~the~~said mounting flange ~~(13)~~ adjoining the vertical leg of the L-shape in at least approximately the horizontal direction.

9. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 8, wherein adhesive surfaces are arranged between ~~the~~said two legs of the L-shape of ~~the~~said supporting element ~~(12)~~ and ~~the~~said associated structural element ~~(9, 10)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, ~~8, or 9,~~ wherein ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ is, in the region of the horizontal leg of the L-shape, provided with a through-bore ~~(20)~~, through which a prestressed screw ~~(18a)~~ is passed and connected to the horizontal leg ~~(15)~~ of the L-shape.

11. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 7, ~~8 or 9,~~ wherein ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ is, in the region of ~~the~~said vertical leg ~~(16)~~ of the L-shape, provided with a through-bore ~~(21)~~, through which a prestressed screw ~~(18b)~~ is passed and by means of which ~~the~~said vertical leg ~~(16)~~ of the L-shape is connected to ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 5,~~Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said supporting elements ~~(12)~~ each have a U-shape seen in cross section, from which ~~the~~said mounting flange ~~(13)~~ branches off, ~~the~~said associated structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ being received between ~~the~~said two U-legs.

13. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ is provided with a through-bore ~~(20)~~, through which a screw ~~(18c)~~ is

passed, which is connected to ~~the~~said two U-legs ~~(15, 22)~~ of ~~the~~said supporting element ~~(12)~~ in such a way that the two U-legs ~~(15, 22)~~ exert a prestressing force on ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~,Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said supporting element ~~(12) has~~comprises two clamping plates ~~(15, 22)~~ arranged at a distance from one another, between which ~~the~~said associated structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ is received, a peripheral plate ~~(16)~~ running parallel to the outer wall of ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~, and a mounting flange ~~(13)~~ connected to ~~the~~said two clamping plates ~~(15, 22)~~ and ~~the~~said peripheral plate ~~(16)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~said mounting flange ~~(13)~~ has at least approximately a T-shape, one T-leg forming ~~the~~said mounting flange, and connecting elements ~~(18e), by means of which the~~, connecting said two clamping plates ~~(15, 22)~~ and ~~the~~said peripheral plate ~~(16) are connected~~ to ~~the~~said mounting flange ~~(13)~~, being arranged on a leg ~~(24)~~ arranged at right angles to the said leg.

16. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~said connecting elements are designed as screws ~~(18e)~~ with spring elements ~~(19)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 14 to 16~~,Claim 14, wherein adhesive surfaces ~~(17a, 17b, 17c)~~ are arranged between ~~the~~said clamping plates ~~(15, 22)~~, ~~the~~said peripheral plate ~~(16)~~ and ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to ~~one of Claims 14 to 17~~,Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~said two clamping plates ~~(15, 22)~~ are provided with screws ~~(18d)~~, which are screwed into ~~the~~said structural element ~~(9, 10)~~ in such a way that a prestress is exerted on ~~the~~said adhesive surfaces ~~(17a, 17c)~~.